



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
PROTECTION
of Fur-Bearing Animals

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New trapping regs ignore concerns of citizens

Animal advocacy group frustrated that Ministry excluded simple safety updates

VANCOUVER - Simple updates to British Columbia's trapping regulations could increase safety, decrease the danger to pets and citizens and make enforcement easier – but all were ignored, says The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (APFA).

The two-year regulations were released by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources this week, at the same time as the Ministry of Environment released requests for residents to co-exist with wildlife.

“One government hand is telling residents to respect wildlife while the other is allowing the use of dangerous – and sometimes lethal – traps without taking simple safety precautions,” says Adrian Nelson, Director of Communications at APFA. “Posting signs near trapping activities remains a suggestion – not a regulation. Adding individual identification markers to traps isn't included at all, even though it would make enforcement possible. And despite all common sense, trapping is still allowed within 200 metres of a dwelling – be it a school, a hospital or a home.”

The requests of several municipalities have also gone unheeded: Sechelt, Nanaimo and Surrey have all put forward by-laws to prohibit the use of leg-hold, body-gripping or snare-type traps, but need Ministry approval. Vernon and Creston have requested clarification on their ability to do the same.

“Minister Steve Thomson needs to show that he has heard the people of this great province,” Nelson adds.

“Minister Thomson needs to act to show that he, too, respects wildlife and the peoples' right to enjoy the land around them without fear. Minister Thomson needs to act – today.”